Fatalities due to cloud to ground lightning

2533. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several fatilities are being reported due to cloud to ground lightning from the North-East every year;

(b) whether in India alone the number of deaths caused by lightning strikes in a year is close to 1500;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken for awareness, safety and protection from lightning;

(d) whether the scientists, engineers and administrators of the concerned department have been issued directions to explore the safety measures; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Eminent Indian Scientists

2534. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of eminent Indian scientists in different fields including agriculture, medicine, space etc. who made notable contribution which earned them national and international recognition;

(b) who among them work in Government/Semi-Government organization and academic/research institutions like universities; and

(c) the important projects in which they are engaged and the benefit likely to accrue from them for growth and development?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) There is a large volume of publicly available literature which lists the names of eminent Indian scientists in different fields and their notable contributions. In particular, the list of fellows, their biographical sketches, scientific contributions and institutional affiliations given by the